

REMARKS

I. Status

Claims 1-14 are pending in this Application, with claims 7-14 being withdrawn from consideration. With this response, claims 1, 2, and 6 are amended, and claims 3-5 and 7-14 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added.

The Title is objected to.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshikawa (JP2000-066,288) “in view of the Applicants Admitted Prior Art (AAPA).”

Claim 1 is independent.

II. Objection to the Title

The Office Action objects to the Title, the Office Action stating that:

“[t]he title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed”
(see Office Action p. 2).

Applicants respectfully submit that the Title, as originally provided, is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.72. Nevertheless, in order to facilitate prosecution, with this response Applicants change the title to read “AUTOFOCUS LENS APPARATUS AND IMAGE PICKUP SYSTEM.”

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

III. Amendment of Claims 1, 2, and 6

With this response, Applicants amend claims 1, 2, and 6. No new matter has been added. Amendment support may be found, for instance, among paragraphs [0031], [0046], and [0048]-[0055] of the disclosure of the present application.

As noted by the Office Action (see Office Action page 3, lines 10-13), Yoshikawa does not, for example, disclose, teach, or suggest a signal generating circuit as set forth in claim 1.

Moreover, that which is indicated by the Office Action to be “Applicants Admitted Prior Art (AAPA)” does not, for instance, disclose, teach, or suggest that a signal generating circuit as set forth in claim 1 is part of a lens apparatus.

Applicants note, for example, that Fig. 8 of the disclosure of the present application (which is indicated by the Office Action to be “Applicants Admitted Prior Art (AAPA)”) shows that element 216 is part of camera 21 rather than lens apparatus 31. In contrast, according to various embodiments of the present invention a lens apparatus includes signal generating circuit element 102 (see, for example, paragraph [0033] and Figs. 1-3 of the disclosure of the present application).

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Yoshikawa and that which is indicated by the Office Action to be “Applicants Admitted Prior Art (AAPA),” taken individually or in combination, fail, for example, to disclose, teach, or suggest:

“... a first image input circuit into which the video signal is input from the camera through the parallel communication terminal; [and]

a second image input circuit into which the video signal is input from the camera through the serial communication terminal ...”

as set forth in claim 1 as amended herewith (emphasis added). Such functionality is discussed, for instance, via the disclosure of the present application's discussion of Figs. 2 and 3 and elements 113 and 114.

As another example, Yoshikawa and that which is indicated by the Office Action to be "Applicants Admitted Prior Art (AAPA)," taken individually or in combination, fail to disclose, teach, or suggest:

"... a video signal selection circuit which is adapted to select the video signal input into the first and second image input circuits,

wherein, when the communication format determination circuit has determined that the camera complies with the serial communication format, the video signal selection circuit outputs the video signal, which has been input into the first image input circuit, to the signal generating circuit, and a signal other than the video signal is communicated through the serial communication terminal; and

wherein, when the communication format determination circuit has determined that the camera does not comply with the serial communication format or that the camera complies with the parallel communication format, the video signal selection circuit outputs the video signal, which has been input into the second image input circuit, to the signal generating circuit, and a signal other than the video signal is communicated through the parallel communication terminal"

as set forth in claim 1 as amended herewith.

Applicants note that functionality set forth in claim 1 as amended herewith provides, for example, the beneficial effects discussed among paragraphs [0038] and [0072] of the disclosure of the present application.

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, at least with the amendments herewith, as well as those claims that depend therefrom, are in

condition for allowance.

IV. Dependent Claim Rejections

Applicants do not believe it is necessary at this time to further address the rejections of the dependent claims as Applicants believe that the foregoing places the independent claims in condition for allowance. Applicants, however, reserve the right to further address those rejections in the future should such a response be deemed necessary and appropriate.

(Continued on next page)

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance for which action is earnestly solicited.

If a telephone conference would facilitate prosecution of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required for this response, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5138.

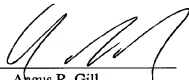
Furthermore, in the event that an extension of time is required, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the above-noted Deposit Account and Order No.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: October 30, 2007

By:



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